

# Boating Safety *Update*

Life jackets are the first and last word in boating safety. Often called personal floatation devices (PFD), floatation can mean the difference between life and death in any boat accident. This year, as you renew your boat registration, we want to take a moment to stress the most important piece of life saving gear you can carry -- the life jacket.

First, there are changes to the PFD law in Nevada. All boaters should wear a life jacket, but if a boater chooses not to, the updated law now requires that all life jackets be “readily accessible” meaning that they must be within reach of occupants, sized appropriately and be ready immediately, should they be needed.

Not all PFDs are the kind you wear. Some PFDs, called type IV or throwable PFDs are used, just as the name implies, to throw to boaters or swimmers in distress. When a boater falls overboard, a rescuer has only seconds to react. The updated regulation for this year calls for throwable PFDs to remain within reach of the operator or a passenger, where the



PFD can be used in an instant in case of emergency.

Boats 16 feet and longer have always been required to carry the throwable type of life jacket in addition to a wearable life jacket for each person on board, but now boats 26 feet and longer must carry 30 feet of line attached to the

throwable device.

Boats 40 feet or longer must carry two of the devices, one forward and one aft.

Children under 12, as always, must wear

a life jacket whenever the boat is moving. Life jackets save lives ... so use them.

## **Type IV PFDs**

- 16-26 feet - Type IV
- 26-40 feet - type IV and 30 feet of line
- 40 feet and up - two such devices

## **Safety equipment critical for all boats**

### **Coast Guard Approved Life Jackets**

One correctly sized life jacket for each person on board - by law, children under 12 years old must wear it.

### **Type IV Flotation Device**

See update in adjacent story

### **Fire Extinguisher**

Any boat that uses gasoline must carry one, and it must be charged.

### **Muffling Device**

Every boat must be properly muffled.

### **Water Ski and Dive Flags**

If you water ski or dive you need to display the appropriate signal flag.

### **Lights**

Have appropriate and functioning navigation lights, even if you only plan to boat in the day.

### **Anchor**

If the boat breaks down, an anchor is essential for protecting yourself and your boat.

### **Sound Producing Device**

All boats must carry a horn, whistle or other sound producing device.

### **Visual Distress Signals**

Though not required, signal flares and flags can attract attention if need arises.

## The Boating Safety Seven

- Wear your life jacket
- Take a boating safety class
- Carry all your required safety gear
- Know your boat and its limitations
- Follow the boating 'rules of the road'
- Be aware of weather and water conditions
- Boat sober; be considerate to other boaters

## How to Contact Us

### **Headquarters /**

#### **Reno**

1100 Valley Rd.  
Reno, NV 89512  
(775) 688-1500

#### **Las Vegas**

4747 Vegas Dr.  
Las Vegas, NV 89108  
(702) 486-5127

#### **Henderson**

744 S. Racetrack Rd.  
Henderson, NV 89015  
(702) 486-6742

#### **Elko**

60 Youth Center Road  
Elko, NV 89801  
(775) 777-2300

#### **Winnemucca**

815 E. Fourth St.  
Winnemucca, NV 89445  
(775) 623-6565

#### **Fallon**

380 West B. St.  
Fallon, NV 89406  
(775) 423-3171

*This pamphlet was created by the Nevada Department of Wildlife's Boating Safety Office. If you have any boat safety questions or concerns contact the boating safety staff at: 775.688.1548.*

**www.ndow.org**

## Boating Education needed

Many boat operators may still be unaware that they are required to take a boating education course before operating a motorboat on some Nevada waters. Boaters born on or after Jan. 1, 1983 must take a boating safety course before operating a motorboat of 15 horsepower or more on Nevada's interstate waters, including Lake Mead, Lake Mohave, the Colorado River, Lake Tahoe, and Topaz Lake

Whether it's required or not, a boating course is a great idea. It can save boaters money on insurance, but more importantly, it can save your life.

## Aquatic Hitchhikers Hurt Nevada

- Remove visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate all water before transporting.
- Clean and dry any thing that comes into contact with water.
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water.



**STOP AQUATIC  
HITCHHIKERS!™**

## Boat Nevada



*Boating safety tips and changes for the 2006 boating season.*



**www.ndow.org**

BOAT NEVADA